

TRYING HARD TO CHEAT UNCLE SAM

Persons Who Regard the Government As Legitimate Prey.

GOOD MONEY WANTED FOR BAD

The Redemption Division of the Treasury Department the Special Object of Assault—It Seems Easy, But It's Difficult and Dangerous. Attempts to Swindle with Mutilated Bills.

Washington Letter in the Sun.

Why men who in ordinary business affairs are scrupulously honest do not hesitate to swindle the government is one of the problems which puzzle the department officials at Washington. There is no doubt that this curious mental attitude toward the government is very general. The Treasury department sees more examples of it than any other of the departments, and of the Treasury experience the redemption division gets a full share. It is there that \$275,000,000 in worn and torn government currency is sent every year to be exchanged for fresh, crisp greenbacks or silver coins. Mr. Relyea, who has been chief of the division for ten years, says it is a great place to study human nature.

In the redemption division they give you a whole note for three-fifths of a note of the same denomination. They give you half the face value of a note for a piece of it greater than two-fifths and less than three-fifths. Finally they replace a note entirely, however small the fragment offered for redemption, if the owner can show to the satisfaction of Mr. Relyea and his staff that the remainder of the note was accidentally destroyed.

Bear these facts in mind: Less than two-fifths of a \$10 bill is worth nothing unless it can be proved that the remainder of the bill was destroyed accidentally. More than two-fifths and less than three-fifths of the bill is worth \$5, but with the same condition fulfilled it is worth \$10. Three-fifths of the bill is worth \$10.

Six years ago, if one-tenth of a \$10 bill was missing, the treasury gave only \$9 for it, but it was found that this was unjust because most of the mutilated bills were bills of small denomination, and most of the persons who presented them were poor. So the new rule was adopted, and it has worked well. But it opens up a tempting avenue for fraud, although any one who knew how few chances there are of escaping the eye of Chief Relyea and his experts would never undertake to impose on the redemption division. Mr. Relyea and his staff can scent a fraud as quickly as a secret service officer.

INSTANCES.

Not long ago a doctor in Alabama sent to the redemption division one-half of a \$10 bill, accompanied by an affidavit saying that while on a spree he had used the other half to light a cigar. The half which he forwarded was nicely charred along the inner edge. The story would have been very plausible if the redemption division had not received within twenty-four hours from an Alabama bank the other half of the same note. The theory of the treasury officials was that while on a spree the doctor had struggled for the possession of the bill with some one, who had wrested half of it from him; that the doctor had turned the half into the bank and received \$5; that the doctor, recovering his senses, had found the other half in his pocket, and, not wanting to lose his money, had conceived the plan of signing the edge of the note and sending the other half back to the bank. So he cunningly committed perjury in an attempt to rob Uncle Sam of \$5.

A short time ago a man in Chicago sent an affidavit to the treasury accompanied by the signed half of two \$20 bills and one \$10 bill. This affidavit was typewritten and in perfect form. It stated that the deponent was a commercial traveler; that, returning from a journey, he had been cleaning out his traveling bag, when inadvertently he had thrown into the bag an envelope containing \$50 in bills; that, in accordance with section 50-and-so of the law of such a date, he would like to have the money restored to him, etc.

The clerk who brought this document to Mr. Relyea commented on its completeness. "The story seems unnatural," said Mr. Relyea. "Hold up the claim for a time."

Twenty-four hours later a big shipment of mutilated currency came from the sub-treasury at Chicago. Mr. Relyea asked if there were any half notes in the shipment. In four or five minutes a clerk brought him the missing halves of the bills which the Chicago man had sent him. The attempt to defraud was plain. The matter was put at once in the hands of the Secret Service bureau. An agent was sent to Chicago. He found the young man who had made the affidavit, though it was made under a false name. He told the young man that it was customary to investigate cases of the kind; that there was no doubt he would get the money. The young man's fears were lulled to rest. He admitted his identity as the maker of the affidavit. He was put under arrest, and then the story of his crime came out. He was of decent family, but he had fallen into bad company, and had been persuaded to attempt the fraud by older companions. They furnished the money and prepared the affidavit. They cut the bills in half, and for one half obtained \$25. The other half they signed and attached them to his affidavit. When he was arrested they fled.

The gross profit of the swindle could

not have been more than \$25, and in trying to beat the government out of that amount the young man forfeited his liberty for a year and a half.

AN INTER-STATE CASE.

One of the most interesting cases in the history of the department began in New York and ended in Kansas. One day a money broker in the Bowery sent in for redemption the halves of some bills—\$50 worth. He received promptly a treasury draft for \$25. Now, half notes are always a little suspicious. It is difficult to imagine a legitimate reason for cutting a bill in two pieces. In this case it was decided to put the half notes away and await developments. They came two and a half years later from an unsuspected quarter. A Kansas bank sent to the treasury the other halves of the mutilated notes, the inside edges scorched, and with them an elaborate affidavit. The affidavit says that he was a farmer; that while harvesting he had hung his coat on a fence; that the brush near the fence had caught fire, and before he could rescue his coat it had been badly burned; that bills aggregating \$50, which were in the pocket of his coat, were destroyed by fire, and that the fragments accompanying the affidavit were all that was left of the burned money. With this affidavit was a letter, from the cashier of the bank saying that the deponent was a man of the highest standing in the community, and that the facts were undoubtedly as he had stated.

Mr. Relyea sent a reply to the cashier's letter, saying there must be some mistake—that the other halves of the notes were in the possession of the treasury. The cashier answered furiously. Unless restitution was made within two days, he said, the Hon. member of congress from a Kansas district, would call and demand an explanation.

This threat made the treasury officials angry. They were not going to be bulldozed. They promptly notified the department of justice. Word was sent to the district attorney for Kansas. He replied that prosecution would be hopeless. The farmer was not only a wealthy and highly respected citizen, but a director of the bank through which the affidavit had been sent, and it would not be possible to convict him. The department of justice was in favor of dropping the case; the treasury insisted on trying it. Finally the man was indicted, and Mr. Relyea was notified to attend the trial. On the day on which he was to start west a telegram came saying that the highly respected farmer had pleaded guilty and paid a fine of \$1,000.

FRAUDS DETECTED.

A good many years ago a bank messenger sent in for redemption a cigar box full of scraps of money. He made affidavit that they were all that was left of some money which had been destroyed by mice. It took the experts only a few minutes to tell that the scraps were in relation to each other. Each belonged to a different note. Evidently the messenger had been picking up scraps of bills around the bank for many years, and saving them for a fraud on the government. On another occasion two halves of a note came in from different men in the same city on the same day, each accompanied by an affidavit telling how the other half had been destroyed.

This sort of thing is going on all the time. A few days ago one of the clerks brought to Chief Relyea the mangled remains of what seemed to be a \$5 bill. It was pasted on a piece of heavy brown paper. In the lower left hand corner the serial number was clearly defined; in the upper right hand corner, where the same figures should have been, the note had been scraped, so as to blur the number, and a weak attempt had been made to suggest with India ink the first of the figures on the number below. The two pieces evidently had belonged to different notes. Alone they were worthless, because neither was as large as two-fifths of the original note; together the owner had hoped to make them appear to belong to the same note and so get \$2.50 for them. The attempt at fraud was weak and futile.

The Treasury clerks have keen eyes, and they make few mistakes. They have been known to pass counterfeit notes, but cases of this kind are rare. When the notes come to the redemption division cut in half, the upper half being sent to the treasurer's office and the lower half to the register's. Each package of half notes is marked with the initials of the original counter. It has happened that the counter in the treasurer's or register's office has come upon a counterfeit. In that case the original counter has been obliged to make up the loss to the government because the treasury pays out the amount of the notes on the certificate of the first counter.

THEFTS.

Some years ago there was employed in the redemption division a bright-faced youth who was a great favorite with the clerks. No one knows that he stole any money, but these facts are beyond dispute. Money disappeared while he was employed in the office, and the disappearances stopped suddenly when he was transferred to the vault room. Not long afterward he was caught stealing silver from the vaults, tried, and convicted. Under the conditions, the inference that he stole from the redemption division is fair.

The first money which was missed in the redemption division was a \$5 bill. The clerk having charge of the money made up the amount. Then \$25 was missing. This was pretty heavy loss. The expert clerks in the redemption division receive only \$1,000 to \$1,500 salary, though they are held responsible for millions of dollars during the year. A subscription was taken up in the office to make up the \$25. One day a \$1,000 bill disappeared. The day was a commotion. The treasurer of the United States had to make good the shortage and go to congress for redress. There is little doubt in the redemption division that the young thief had got the \$25 bill.

This incident was used by the treasurer to point the moral of a recommendation to congress for additional clerks. He recommended that a force be employed to keep a register of the number of notes in each denomination sent in for redemption. No such record had ever been kept, and as congress refused to make the appropriation the record is not kept now. There is no doubt that it should be. No business man would pay his notes and destroy them without keeping some record of the transaction, yet the government each year pays millions of its obligations and destroys the notes which represent them, and it cannot state today what notes are outstanding and what have been redeemed.

Effect of the Post's Longings. From the Washington Star. The common, vulgar sort; If the post did less longing, he Would not be quite so shaming. Washington Star.

JONAS LONG'S SONS. JONAS LONG'S SONS. JONAS LONG'S SONS. JONAS LONG'S SONS. JONAS LONG'S SONS.

A Whirlwind of Business

Has struck this store. Crowds congregate from morning till night. They admire the beauty of the store. They wonder at the goodness of the stocks. They enthuse at the lowness of the prices. This was illustrated yesterday in a sale of Men's Gloves. We advertised 1,000 pairs. People came in crowds and bunches, The thousand pairs were sold. Still they came. Bound to please—bound not to disappoint, we placed the balance of the lot on sale, and when the turnstile had registered the last pair, 2184 men had been made happy. The same conditions exist today in the bargains here, because the

STORE IS GREATEST STOCK IS LARGEST GOODS ARE FINEST PRICES ARE LOWEST. Come and Spend the Day with Us. Judge for Yourself What We Say Is True.

A Great Grocery Store.

WE PRIDE ourselves on our Grocery Department. Its cleanliness and neatness will please you. You'll like the arrangement of the goods for quick and easy shopping. Soon to realize the change in your grocery bills after a week's trading here. All canned goods are packed to our order and represent the choicest selections from the greatest fruit and vegetable growing sections.

Flour Our Patent Minnesota Flour is absolutely the best that can be made. Put it alongside the brand of a celebrated Minnesota maker who charges you \$6.50 a barrel. You'll take ours. The only difference is the price—\$5.68 per barrel

Granulated Sugar Standard Quality, 21 lbs. for \$1.00

Coffee Small dealers can't buy good coffee. The big fellows swallow the choice growths. We're one of the "big fellows." Our Java and Arabia Mocha Coffee is a combination of the choicest private growth—you'll like it, 32c per pound

Special Today: Arbuckle's Famous Ariosa Coffee in one pound packages, 8 cents package

Canned Goods Solid Cold Packed Tomatoes, per can, 9 cents Extra Early June Peas, per can, 10 cents

Jellies 20 pound pail Jelly, assorted flavors, 58 cents

Stationery 300 boxes of fine quality stationery, with crest initials; 24 sheets of paper, with envelopes to match. You would jump at the bargain if we said 75 cents a box. What will you do when we say 49 cents box

Men's Ties 100 dozen Men's Fine Silk Band Bows and Club House Ties. Bows are correct shapes and newest colorings. Ties are full length and an inch wide. Price for today is 10 cents each

Suggestions for Gifts in Sterling Silver.

- Hair Brushes, Military Brushes, Hat Brushes, Bonnet Brushes, Clothes Brushes, Nail Brushes, Tooth Brushes, Baby Brushes, Baby Rattles, Baby Combs, Nail Files, Baby Boxes, Combs, Nail Polishers, Whisk Brooms, Match Sales, Pocket Knives, Viniagrettes, Brandy Flasks, Paper Knives, Book Marks, Bag Tags, Hat Markers, Coat Hangers, Key Chains, Button Hooks, Cream Ladles, Bon-Bon Spoons, Glove Buttoners, Manicure Scissors, Manicure Sets, Glove Stretchers, Curling Irons, Shoe Horns, Card Cases, Towel Rings, Memo. Tablets, Seals, Stocking Darners, Nut Picks, Dusters, Ink Stands, Mucilage Bottles, etc.

Specials for This Day:

- 3 piece set, comprising Nail File, Cuticle Knife and Glove Buttoner, at 39 cents Sterling Silver Nail Files, Button Hooks and Cuticle Knives, with three inch handles, at 49c each. Comb and Brush, with sterling silver backs, in silk lined box, complete, for \$2.35. Ladies' Dressing Combs, sterling mounted, seven inches long, at 33c each. Cut Glass Salve Boxes, with heavy sterling covers; large size, at 49c each.

Dress Goods and Silks.

YOU WILL enjoy the hour spent in our Dress Goods Department. The ever-changing procession of newness will always be of interest. These six items fairly illustrate price possibilities:

- Silks Changeable Taffetas—heavy rustling quality—no slipping of threads or pulling apart, 10 different combinations of colorings, 43c yard Regular value, 68c. All-Silk Brocaded Taffetas, in choice combinations of colorings, at 38c yard These goods cost to manufacture 52 1/2c yard. Black Brocaded Gros Grains—pure silk, rich effects in both large and medium patterns, at 43c yard Worth fully double

Dress Goods

Fancy Figured Poplins and Boucle effects—two toned novelties, 38 in. wide. A superb dress fabric, 29c yard Would be cheap at 50c

Fine quality Scotch Plaids, great variety of colorings. These goods came direct from the looms—the last of a mill owner's stock. While they last, at 19c yard Could not be duplicated for twice that.

Fancy Suitings, in mixtures, dark and medium shades, for children's school dresses. A bargain at 7 1/2c yard

Men's Suspenders Women's Hosiery

Here is a bargain. Silk web and silk stitched with solid silk ends; patent clasps. Put up one pair in a box, and an endless variety of nobby colors. Worth 75 cents. Here at 45 cents pair Solid Black Lisle Thread Hosiery, seamless. Plain or Richelieu stripes. One of the best Hosiery bargains Scranton has ever seen. For one day only at 25 cents pair

Jonas Long's Sons,

Scranton's Mammoth Department Store.

STORE OPEN EVERY EVENING UNTIL CHRISTMAS.

NOT WHOLLY IRRELEVANT.

At Least to Her Womanly Eye, but It Made Him Bravely Sarcastic. From the Washington Star. They had been discussing the plans for a new house, and it frequently occurred that his suggestions did not strike her as apropos. "Everything seems to be out of proportion," she was saying.

A STRANGE REPTILE.

It Carries Its Three Sets of Lungs on the Outside of Its Body. From the Collector. Early this month a strange reptile was found on George Worcester's farm near Middletown, Ohio. It puzzled every one till the Cincinnati Enquirer discovered that it was a genuine proteus. During the recent floods a portion of the farm was inundated, and after the waters receded whole districts of muddy sediment were exposed. It was in this mud that Worcester discovered the reptile, and capturing it placed it on exhibition. To those who are acquainted with the history of this species of reptile it is unnecessary to state that its rarity makes it a curious sight. It is about one foot long, with an elongated and cylindrical body. The tail is short, broad and compressed laterally. The strangest feature of the reptile is its lungs, which are on the outside of its body, and so transparent that the blood can be seen coursing through them. It has three sets of lungs, or rather, three bronchial tubes, all of which are persistent

THE PRUDENT WIFE.

Is Now Satisfied That There Is No Danger of the Bank Breaking. From the Chicago Times-Herald. By dint of much economy and denying themselves the theater and expensive dinners and fine clothes, the young South Side woman and her husband had accumulated a few hundred dollars, which was drawing interest in a bank on La Salle street. The prudent wife, alarmed by the stories of bank failures, thought it best to

draw out the little hoard and invest it in a large woolen stocking, but her husband argued otherwise. They discussed the matter every day, and finally the little woman was seized with a great inspiration; she would talk it over with the banker. But she said nothing to her husband about this resolve. Bright and early Monday morning she repaired to the bank, had an extended conversation with the cashier and returned home, radiant and happy. When her husband returned to dinner she announced that she had determined to leave the money in the bank.

"Well, what has come over you to cause this change of mind?" he asked. "Oh, I'm sure the money is quite safe there, and I do not want to lose the interest."

As We Used to Long Ago.

Play that you are mother, dear, And play that papa is your heart; Play that we sit in the corner here, Just as we used to long ago. Play now, we levers two, Are just as happy as can be, And I'll say: "I love you!" to you! And you say: "I love you!" to me! "I love you!" we both shall say, All in earnest and all in play. Or, play that you are the other one That sometimes came and went away, And play that the light of years ago Stole into my heart today! Playing that you are the one I knew In the days that never again may be, I'll say: "I love you!" to you! And you'll say: "I love you!" to me! "I love you!" my heart will say To the ghost of the past come back to-day. Or, play that you sought this nesting place For your own sweet self, with that dual guide Of your pretty mother in your face And the look of that other in your eyes! So the dear old love shall live anew, As I hold my darling on my knee, And I'll say: "I love you!" to you! And you'll say: "I love you!" to me! Oh, many a strange, true thing you say And do when we pretend to play! —Eugene Field.

BABY'S SKIN Oticura In all the world there is no other treatment so pure, so sweet, so speedy, for the itching, purifying, and beautifying the skin, scalp, and hair, and eradicating every humor, as warm baths with Oticura soap, and gentle anointings with Oticura ointment, the great skin cure. Oticura is sold throughout the world. For sale at all drug stores, and by mail, for 50c. EVERY HUMOR From Pimples to Scabies From Itching to Chertous